

REMARKS

Continued prosecution and consideration of the claimed subject matter in the accompanying patent application is respectfully requested.

I. The Amendments

As already noted, the first page of the application has been amended to add the history of this application.

Claims 79-97 and 110-115 are in the case and are before the Examiner.

Claims 1-78 and 98-109 were cancelled. Claims 1-78 are being prosecuted in the parent application, and 98-109 are being prosecuted in a further divisional application.

The sequence listing was amended in the prior divisional application. A copy of the amendment is enclosed.

It is thus seen that no further new matter has been added.

II. The Enclosed Application

Enclosed is a copy of the prior, immediate parent application, including the previously filed Declaration and Power of Attorney, recorded Assignment and Recordation Form Cover Sheet, as originally filed. Also enclosed is a substitute sequence listing that was previously amended and filed in the prior divisional application. The attached application papers are true copies from counsel's files of prior application Serial No. 09/930,915, filed August 15, 2001.

The attached application contains no new matter.

SUMMARY

The claims corresponding to previously prosecuted claims in the parent application and in a further divisional application were cancelled in this divisional application.

The application is believed to be in condition for examination and allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

A filing fee is enclosed based on the number of claims in the application after entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

No further fee or petition is believed to be necessary. However, should any further fee be needed, please charge our Deposit Account No. 23-0920, and deem this paper to be the required petition.

The Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned should any questions arise that can be dealt with over the phone to expedite this prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Edward P. Gamson Reg. No. 29,381

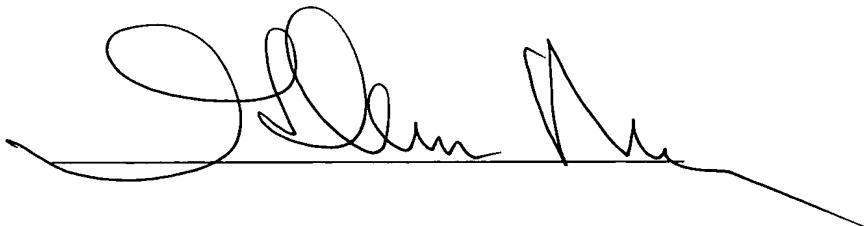
WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 South Riverside Plaza, 22nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Phone (312) 655-1500
Fax No. (312) 655-1501

Enclosures

Application Data Sheet
Transmittal Letter
Fee Transmittal Sheet
Cert. of Express Mailing page
Previously filed Patent Application & Drawings
Previously filed Declaration and Power of Attorney
Previously filed Recorded Assignment and Cover Sheet
Computer Readable Disk
Substitute Sequence Listing
Statement Under 37 CFR § 1.821(f)
Application Fee

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment and it's stated enclosures, including Patent Application Transmittal Letter and its stated enclosures, Patent Application and filing fee are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Label No. EV337100447US, postage prepaid in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 22, 2004.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Smith", is written over a solid horizontal line.